

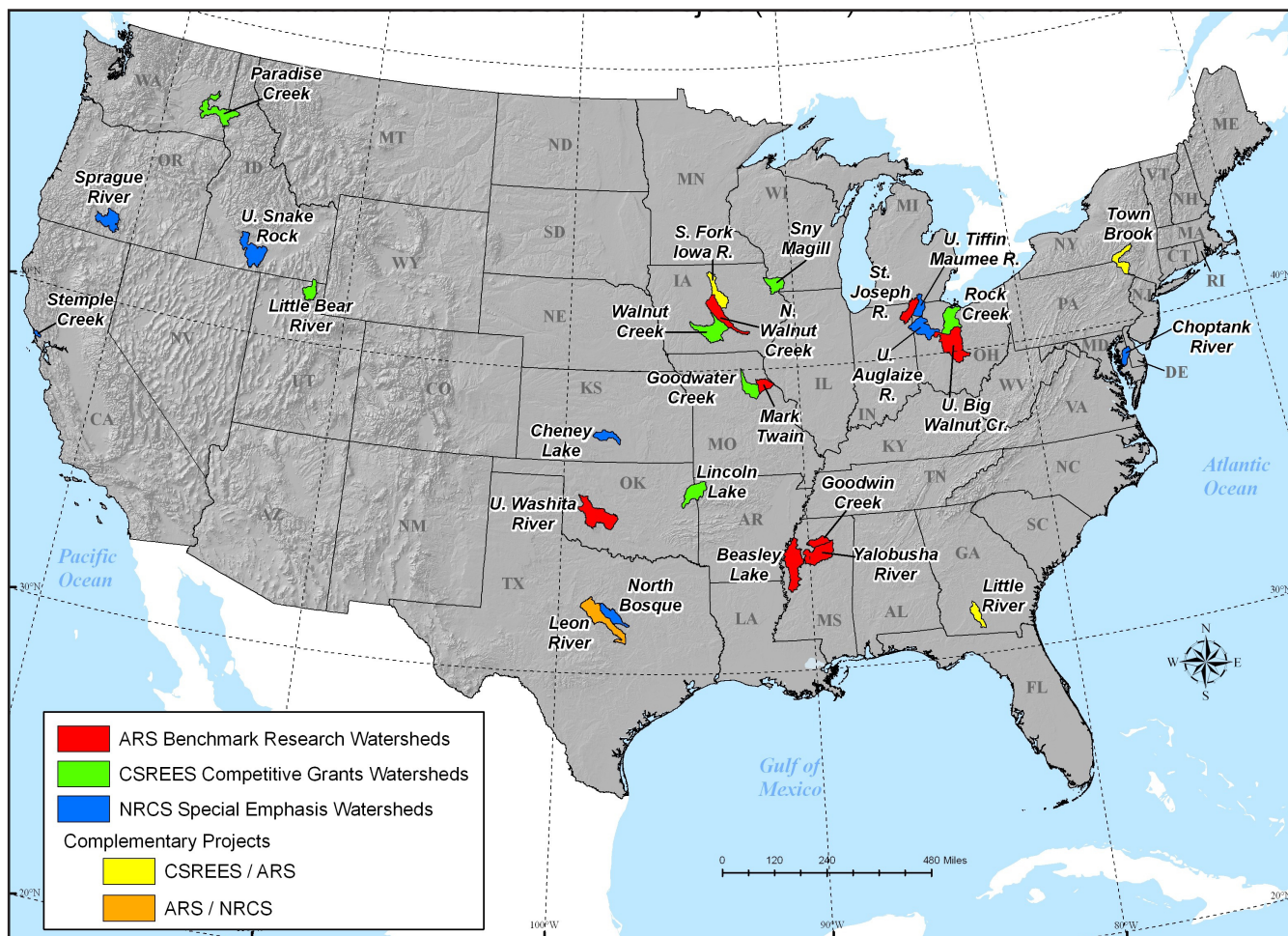


United States Department of Agriculture

## Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

### Watershed Fact Sheet

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) is an effort by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to quantify environmental effects of conservation practices. CEAP has two main components—a national assessment and watershed assessments.



## National Assessment

### Cropland

Sampling and modeling approach using representative crop fields from National Resources Inventory to measure:

- water quality, water quantity, and soil quality.

### Wetlands

Conduct collaborative regional assessments to develop models for:

- carbon storage, sediment and nutrient reduction, flood water storage, wildlife habitat, and biological sustainability.

Initial assessments--Prairie Pothole and Mississippi Alluvial Valley Regions.

### Wildlife

Cooperative effort with wildlife conservation community.

- Regional work groups developing approaches to assessing wildlife effects.
- Coordinating with on-going studies on northern bobwhite, waterfowl, pheasants, sage grouse, and other wildlife.



## 28 Watershed Assessments

- **12 Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Benchmark Research Watersheds:**  
Long-term, coordinated research across a variety of hydrologic and agronomic settings to improve models for the National Assessment and develop policy planning tools.
- **8 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Special Emphasis Watersheds:**  
Focus on livestock, poultry, irrigation and drainage management.
- **8 Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) Watersheds:**  
Evaluate interactions among practices and hydrology in the landscape, factors affecting farmer adoption of practices, outreach.

## Bibliography in Four Volumes

Contains more than 2,700 literature citations with abstracts (when available) that examine the environmental effects of conservation programs.

1. *Environmental Effects of USDA Conservation Programs*
2. *Implementing Agricultural Conservation Practices: Barriers and Incentives*
3. *Data and Modeling for Environmental Credit Trading*
4. *Agricultural Conservation Practices and Related Issues: Reviews of the State of the Art and Research Needs*

## Literature Reviews

- Summarize existing state of knowledge of effects of cropland conservation practices on soil and water quality, water quantity, and wildlife resources.
- Identify gaps in science.

## Impetus for CEAP

- Need to scientifically quantify natural resources effects of conservation practices.
- Substantial increases in funding for USDA 2002 Farm Bill conservation programs.
- Greater government-wide emphasis on performance outcome measures.

## Future CEAP Assessments

- Air quality
- Grazinglands
- Confined livestock

## Partnerships

- **USDA:** NRCS, ARS, CSREES, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Farm Service Agency, and National Agricultural Library
- **Other Federal Agencies:** U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Local:** Conservation districts, local governments, drinking water suppliers, agricultural and environmental organizations, universities, Cooperative Extension, State agencies, and producers.

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<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nri/ceap/>